



What's the Difference?

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Revision: 04

Project Objectives (two year)

- Provide a simple to use software component that uses richly visual and highly interactive comparisons to teach science and math concepts.
- Design the component so that additional information and new information sets can be developed and easily added by curriculum developers.
- Enable developers of educational software applications to utilize the visual comparison componentry and information in their applications.
- Provide information sets and tool capabilities beyond those delivered for this project's phase 1 effort.

Customers

- Curriculum and educational content developers.
- K-12 students and their teachers.
- Educational software application developers.

Use Cases

- Elementary school students use *What's the Difference?* independently or in groups to comparatively explore the features of planets, the domains of the animal kingdom, prokaryotes and eukaryotes, and the scientific concept of equilibrium, among others.
- Curriculum developers create new, themed content for interactive discovery, coupled with other curriculum elements such as lessons, activities and games.
- Educational software developers incorporate *What's the Difference?* in their applications to illustrate key distinctions between items or concepts, and to allow the user to interactively discover or explore these differences.

Deliverables and Schedule (year one)

- 31 Jan 2004 – Moon data incorporated into Solar System Explorer. SSE terminal release.
- 31 Mar 2004 – WTD design complete.
- 31 Mar 2004 – Completion of Virtual Design Center training.
- 30 Apr 2004 – Completion of work with COTF and AETT to evaluate planned deliverables and identify additional functionality and data sets.
- 30 July 2004 – WTD functionally complete, with α quality.
- 30 Sep 2004 – Report on initial content developer feedback.

People

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Partnerships

- Classroom of the Future (COTF)
- NASA Explorer Schools
- NASA Higher Education Collaborative
- NASA Ames Educational Technology Team

Dependencies

- Formation of the above partnerships.

Assumptions

- Stable requirements and funding.
- WTD application features include variable number of comparison windows, increased screen size, log, tutorial, and ability for content developers to easily incorporate new data sets and glossary.